

CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, July 6, 2009

The Center of Clayton - Multipurpose Room C

The following members were present:

Alex Berger	Dick Hyde
Mimi Deem	Robert Kerr
Judy Goodman	Eric Schneider
Jessie Hoagland	Mark Winings

Excused/Absent

Ira Berkowitz
Rosemary Hardy
Omri Praiss

Also present:

Patty DeForrest, Director of Parks and Recreation
Eric Gruenenfelder
Darren Young

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes were adopted as written. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Addresses from the Audience

There was not an audience present at this Commission meeting.

Smoking Ban Survey Discussion

Mr. Darren Young, Marketing Specialist, at The Center of Clayton spoke about the smoking ban survey. (Please see the detailed Smoking Ban Information document for detailed information). Mr. Young stated that in order to let everyone in the community know about the survey, the information was sent out in our email newsletter, it was on the City of Clayton and The Center of Clayton's website, and signs were posted at the Shaw Park Aquatic Center (SPAC). The survey was open for 3 weeks. Those who chose to take the survey could complete it online or they could complete one at SPAC and leave it in the survey box. We received 1,173 responses; 743 were residents and 430 were non-residents. Mr. Young also showed graphs of the results to give the Commission a better idea of how the results were tallied, as well as discussing them in a flat format. Next, Mr. Young talked about the specific results from each question. The majority of people who took the survey were in favor of a total smoking ban in the parks. Thirty percent filled out the comment section of the survey. There was a twenty percent response rate. This is considered a pretty high rate. Overall the results were very positive and quite useful.

The next step is to make a recommendation to the Board of Alderman. Ms. Goodman said that people are more opinionated about smoking bans more than any other topic. Mr. Schneider thanked staff for putting together the survey.

The Commission members stated their view points on the topic. Mr. Kerr, Ms. Deem, Mr. Schneider, Mr. Winings and Mr. Berger all support a total smoking ban. Ms. Deem stated that the public feels so strongly about the ban that they will enforce it by letting others in the community know where we stand on the issue. Mr. Schneider mentioned that he believes we need to change some of the quirks on how the smoking ban is written. He suggested we add something about the fact that this policy is being implemented for the public's health and safety in our recreation areas. This will clarify why we support the ban. Mr. Berger mentioned that he attended a large outdoor concert in Highland Park, Illinois and stated that it was a remarkable experience to be there, especially because no one was smoking around him. Mr. Hyde mentioned that he does not think we need to go all the way with the smoking ban. This meaning that we could still have a designated smoking area in the park. He completely agrees with banning smoking at the playgrounds and ball fields, but not necessarily in the entire park. Mr. Hyde also said he believes this ordinance would be difficult to enforce and it would be much easier to enforce a ban that only included the playgrounds and fields.

Ms. Goodman discussed the fact that she feels we are at the end of the process now, but she has conflicting views about the timing of implementing the ban. She is not certain if our municipality will be seen as a leader or viewed as an un-welcoming community. Ms. Goodman would like to see other mayors join us in the ban and have their general support. The St. Louis County Municipal League is very supportive. It is also difficult to know how outdoor dining will be addressed. There is not support from the

state at this time either. Ms. Deem responded by stating that she sees Clayton as a leader and is looking for Clayton to be the leader in implementing a smoking ban. She feels as if we should not wait for other cities or municipalities to implement smoking policies. The Commission's goal is to have the smoking ban in parks included with the original ordinance about smoking bans in Clayton restaurants.

Ms. DeForrest noted that smoking is currently taking place at events and during sport leagues. Smoking is very dangerous at these leagues because there a large number of people who attend and come to watch people play. Ms. Renard said fires in parks are extremely dangerous, especially if smokers are dropping their butts on the ground.

Mr. Kerr made a motion to the BOA to support a smoking ban in all Clayton parks. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion. Mr. Hyde was the only Commission opposed to the total smoking ban.

FY10 Proposed Fees and Charges

Ms. DeForrest and Mr. Gruenenfelder conducted a presentation, which included more detailed information about the proposed fees and charges. (Please refer to the full report for additional information). At the June meeting Commission members requested to have this information in order to make a final decision about this subject. The comparative fee studies all showed that some additional revenue would be generated in each area including birthday party rentals at the outdoor pool. Increasing rental fees at Shaw Park Athletic Fields would generate \$1,400 in additional revenue. Mr. Gruenenfelder said they may consider implementing an hourly rate at the fields. Increasing daily fields at the outdoor pool was very justified and would increase revenue by \$2,700. This increase will be generated by raising the senior and youth daily fee to \$4.00. If the proposed fees and charges were increased at the outdoor pool we would see a \$25,000 increase in revenue. This report showed what other facilities are charging and some rates were higher and some were lower.

The Commission discussed the possibility of having a twelve month contract on Platinum Passes. This would allow families to pay their membership fees throughout the year instead of in one lump sum. This option would only be available to residents. Ms. DeForrest said it is something she and her staff will definitely look in to implementing. The total revenue increase, if all the fees and charges discussed were implemented would be \$49,654.

Mr. Schneider made a motion to approve the fees as presented. Mr. Kerr seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Director's Report

Ms. DeForrest stated that she and her staff are primarily working on budget and implementing financials in our new budget software. Sales were down on the Fourth of July due to weather conditions. Many people did not swim because it was too cool outside. We are on track with projects. We have a contract with Unlimited Play. Representatives from Unlimited Play will attend out August meeting. The plan should be ready in October. The overall cost of the project is \$400,000. Mr. Gruenenfelder will be working on a grant for this project that would allow us to receive \$75,000 in additional funding.

We are accepting bids for the Trail Grant project. Coaches from Clayton High School will be coming to a Commission meeting in the near future to discuss the Tennis Center tear out. The bottom line is the project has to take place. High school staff members are looking at alternative locations to host games during this time. The current plan is to do the tear out in January and complete the courts by May. The shade project at SPAC will be completed in September. Ms. DeForrest noted that we are not looking into doing any large projects next year.

Old Business / New Business

Ms. DeForrest will speak with the Public Works department about restriping the bike lanes on Wydown. Over 700 swimmers were at the CSP meeting. The event was sold out in less than hour. Park and Recreation staff added 25,000 pounds of ice to the pool that weekend and the water temperature decreased by five degrees. The water polo tournament will take place in two weeks and will be in the dive tank only.

Respectfully submitted by:
Denise Ucinski